



County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

April 17, 2007


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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
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From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 97 (Mendoza), as amended on March 13, 2007, would limit the use of trans fat by retail food facilities. It would require every food facility to maintain on their premises the labeling information for any food or additive used that includes any fat, oil, or shortening. Effective July 1, 2009, it would prohibit the storage, distribution, serving, or use of any oil, shortening or margarine that contains artificial trans fat, except for the deep frying of yeast dough and cake batter. Beginning July 1, 2010, the use of artificial trans fat for deep frying yeast dough and cake batter also would be prohibited. These restrictions would not apply to foods sold in a manufacturer's original, sealed package.

New York City and Philadelphia have prohibited restaurants in their jurisdictions from using trans fat. Maryland, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maryland, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York State, Rhode Island and Texas are currently considering legislation similar to AB 97 to prohibit the use of artificial trans fat by retail food facilities.

The Department of Public Health recommends that the County support AB 97 because it would reduce the public's exposure to artificial trans fat, an important risk factor for heart disease, and we concur. Consistent with County legislative policy to support measures that would restrict the amount of trans fat in retail food facility food servings, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 97.**

AB 97 is sponsored by the author and supported by the California Alliance for Consumer Protection. It is opposed by the California Chamber of Commerce, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Grocers Association, California Hotel and Lodging Association,

California Independent Grocers Association, California Restaurant Association, California Retailers Association, Grocery Manufacturers Association/Food Products Association, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

AB 97 passed the Assembly Health Committee on March 3, 2007 by a vote of 11 to 5 and has been placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

SB 120 (Padilla and Migden), as amended on March 21, 2007, would require that all chain restaurants in the State with ten or more outlets provide nutrition information on their menus that includes for each menu item the total number of calories, grams of saturated fat, grams of trans fat, and milligrams of sodium. On a menu board, it would only require the total number of calories for each item.

The Department of Public Health recommends that the County support SB 120 because it will provide consumers with important nutrition information at the point of purchase that will assist them in reducing their risk for obesity and chronic disease while also protecting the health of their children, and we concur. Consistent with County legislative policy to support measures that would promote the availability of calorie and nutritional labeling by retail food facilities on their menus and menu boards, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 120.**

SB 120 is co-sponsored by the American Cancer Association, American Heart Association, California Center for Public Health Advocacy, and the California Optometric Association. It is supported by the American Diabetes Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO; California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness Program; California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology; California Chiropractic Association; California Food Policy Advocates; Contra Costa Health Services, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Gray Panthers; Latino Health Access; Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Center for Healthy Weight; and the Stanford School of Medicine. SB 120 is opposed by the California Alliance for Consumer Protection; California Grocers Association; California Independent Grocers Association; and the California Restaurant Association.

SB 120 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 16, 2007.

SB 208 (Runner), as amended on March 20, 2007, would prohibit the State from assessing or collecting licensing fees from any county for the operation of a State-licensed correctional treatment center (CTC). It also would prohibit the State from shifting the costs of this licensing fee exemption to other licensed health facilities.

Existing law defines CTCs as health facilities operated by the California Department of Corrections, Department of Youth Authority, a city, a county, or a city and county law enforcement agency that provides inpatient health services to inmates who do not require health services at a general acute care facility. The law prohibits the State from assessing or collecting licensing fees from health facilities operated by State departments, authorities, commissions, bureaus, and officers, from general acute care hospitals with 100 beds or less

owned by health care districts, and from any federally certified clinics that are exempt from State licensure requirements.

The Sheriff's Department operates a 196 bed facility, which is the only County-run licensed CTC in the State of California, and reports that 85 to 90 percent of the inmates treated there are State inmates awaiting transfer to State prison. Because the CTC performs State duties and serves as a quasi-State facility, the Sheriff's Department argues that it should receive an exemption from State licensing fees. Contending that the funds currently spent on the licensing fee would be better used to increase public safety, the Sheriff's Department recommends that the County support SB 208 (Runner), and we concur. The Department of Health Services has not yet responded. Consistent with County legislative policy to support full funding of the cost to house State inmates returning to prison so the County can avoid expending its own resources for this purpose, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 208.**

SB 208 is sponsored by the Sheriff's Department and supported by the California State Sheriff's Association. There is no registered opposition. SB 208 was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file on April 16, 2007.

Status of County Advocacy Bills

AB 1391 (Brownley)/AB 800 (Lieu, Brownley, Krekorian) - Sewage Spills - CLARIFICATION. The April 13, 2007 Update inadvertently implied that Assembly Member Jared Huffman, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, supported SB 1001 (Perata). Chairman Huffman has not yet taken a position on SB 1001.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MS:EW:acn

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 660
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants